

will serve—on its own—as a fitting reminder to the American people that those of us in Congress are more interested in winning the war than just winning the next election.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on October 4, 2004, I had a meeting in my district and, therefore, missed three recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall Vote No. 487, "aye" on rollcall Vote No. 488, and "aye" on rollcall Vote No. 489.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was absent attending to a previously scheduled commitment and missed the votes on rollcall Vote No. 487, on S. Con. Res. 76, Recognizing November 2, 2003 as "A Tribute to Survivors" at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; rollcall Vote No. 488, on S. 1814, to Transfer Federal Lands Between the Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of the Interior; and rollcall Vote No. 489, on H. Res. 567, Congratulating the American Dental Association for sponsoring the second annual "Give Kids a Smile" program.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall Vote No. 487, "yea" on rollcall Vote No. 488; and "yea" on rollcall Vote No. 489.

IN MEMORY OF TROY H. LAGRONE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, my remarks today are to honor my friend, Troy H. LaGrone, retired President of Ben E. Keith Beers. Troy was a fixture in both the business and academic community in my hometown of Denton.

Troy LaGrone was a graduate of Carthage High School and later attended Draughton's Business College in Dallas before joining the Ben E. Keith Company as a clerk in 1953. After 47 years of service, in 2000, Mr. LaGrone retired as President of the company, but he continued to serve on its board of directors and for the company's Foundation.

In addition to his extensive business career, Mr. LaGrone had served in the U.S. Army and was consistently involved in local and community projects. Throughout the years, Troy served on the board of directors of the Denton State School, Denton Orchestra, Denton Public Schools Foundation and North Texas Fair.

He organized the President's Fellows of the University of North Texas and chaired the President's Council. He also served on the President's Council of Texas Woman's University.

Mr. Troy LaGrone is survived by his wife, Sarah LaGrone and their three children, Joanna LaGrone-Headrick, Robert A. Strawn and James A. Strawn; one brother, Joe Ben LaGrone of Oak Ridge, Tennessee; four grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

As a Texan and a friend, I can say we were blessed to have had him with us as a guide, to encourage us and to direct our paths. I am glad I had the chance to know him, and I honor his life here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 4, I was unable to vote on the motion to suspend the Rules and agree to S. Con. Res. 76, (rollcall No. 487), on the motion to suspend the Rules and pass S. 1814 (rollcall No. 488), and on the motion to suspend the Rules and agree to H. Res. 567 (rollcall No. 489). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three measures.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOHN A. PEREZ

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize John A. Perez, the Director of Political Affairs for the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 324.

Mr. Perez has spent over a decade working as a labor organizer and political operative. He initially gained an appreciation for politics while growing up in the working class community of Highland Park, a nearby suburb of Los Angeles. From a young age, he appreciated the impact of politics on the lives of working people.

He channeled that appreciation into a career helping working people organize and gain political power. After graduating from the University of California Berkeley, John began working on designing and organizing education programs for several community-based organizations and unions. In the 2002 election, he served as Political Director of the California Labor Federation of the AFL-CIO, which represents over 2.1 million working families. He co-chairs the California Democratic Party Finance Committee and is an elected member of the Democratic National Committee.

In addition to his efforts to improve the lives of working families, Mr. Perez is very active in other areas including AIDS Project Los Angeles, the CORO Foundation, and the California League of Conservation Voters.

He has been an asset to the labor movement and numerous Democratic organizations. I commend him for his dedication to improving the lives of hard working people throughout Southern California.

HONORING PETER H. DIAMANDIS

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Peter H. Diamandis, the X Prize Foundation and SpaceshipOne. The X Prize Foundation is based in St. Louis and SpaceShipOne is the now famous commercial rocket which won the Foundation's \$10 million award for successfully completing two trips into space within a 14-day time span on October 4, 2004. Without the leadership and initiative of Peter H. Diamandis, president and founder of the Foundation, this historic feat would not have been accomplished.

Resurrecting the ingenuity of the Spirit of St. Louis Organization and the legacy of Charles Lindbergh, the X Prize Foundation ensures that Americans will continue to lead. The X Prize Foundation utilized the inspiration and "can-do spirit" so characteristic of other great American entrepreneurs and innovators. Astounding the world and catapulting the commercial aviation industry into a new economic stratosphere, Charles Lindbergh's flight in 1927 was truly transformative. Lindbergh proved that the vision and leadership of the individual and private industry compose the greatest impetus to secure new technology and expand the horizons of human accomplishment. Seventy-seven years later, the X Prize Foundation provided the opportunity for pilots Brian Binnie and Michael Melvill to complete the two trips in order to claim the prize. With this most recent triumph, the horizon is no longer the objective, but rather the runway to the stars.

Beginning with the 1904 World's Fair, St. Louis has played an integral role in the aerospace industry. St. Louis has been home to the designers and builders of the beginnings of the Apollo Moon landings, the origin of Lindbergh's historic flight, a center of aerospace manufacturing and, most recently, the X Prize Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the initiative and ingenuity of the X Prize Foundation and the crew of SpaceShipOne for their great accomplishment of opening the door to the heavens more widely to everyone.

HONORING MRS. PAULA D. HAVERON, CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON REPRESENTATIVE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Paula D. Haveron, who retired on July 31, 2004, after completing over 42 years of Federal Service.

Mrs. Haveron began her Civil Service career in 1958 as a clerk-stenographer in the Office of Air Force Civil Engineers.

Having demonstrated her competence in working with Members of Congress and their staffs, Mrs. Haveron was selected for service in the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Legislative Liaison Inquiry Division, in 1960.